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UP FRONT
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ELK POINT REALTY



Zero fish harvest limit at Stoney Lake

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

Just weeks ago, dozens of vehicles could be seen on the frozen surface of

one of the area's most well-known fishing holes – Stoney Lake. But those numbers are likely way down now that word has spread about a zero harvest limit put on the lake in September.



LAKE POSTED - Signage indicating that no fish can be kept at Stoney Lake has been posted on the road sign just east of the south entrance to the lake, as well as adjacent to the camp kitchen near the boat launch.

Word first started spreading last week on social media, when a photo of a notice of the change was being shared. The notice was dated September, 2016, but confusion arose due to the misspelling of "Stoney Lake."

Many regulars to the lake commented on the post, and admitted they had heard nothing about the changed regulation.

Owen Watkins, a fisheries biologist with Alberta Environment and Parks, confirmed there was a "zero harvest" limit put on the lake, due to a large summer kill that occurred in 2016.

"You can still fish at the lake," he noted, but it is strictly catch and release. He said he went out to the lake himself on Thursday to post signs about the regulation change, and agreed that the lake is clearly being well used this winter, with tracks accessing the lake noticeable.

Brent Wittmeier, Press Secretary to Minister Shannon Phillips with Alberta Environment and Parks also confirmed the change.

"Albertans love to fish and enjoy the outdoors. Unfortunately, Stoney Lake experienced a significant fish kill this past summer," he said, via email. "In order to ensure fish stocks are healthy in

future years, Alberta Environment and Parks has placed a zero harvest limit on Stoney Lake for the immediate future. Fish and Wildlife officers are working to educate anglers that Stoney Lake is only open to catch and release. We will continue to monitor the fish population at Stoney Lake and will make sure anglers are notified once the population recovers."

Ray Makowecki has been involved in spearheading meetings in the area regarding underutilized fish stocks, including a very well attended meeting at Lac Bellevue Hall held in early September. He is a former Fish and Wildlife biologist.

When asked if he knew of the regulation change to Stoney Lake, Makowecki said no.

"We all learned earlier this week about the Stoney Lake situation," he said, last week.

He added, "Seeing that fish are still present with catchable numbers in Stoney Lake, and considering that a large loss of fish had occurred, I would suggest that the public be asked to voluntarily not harvest fish until after the spring spawning in April and May of 2017."

(Continued on Page 2)

Chamber sets AGM date

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point and District Chamber of Commerce has set Wednesday, Feb. 1 as the date of their 2017 annual general meeting, and after some discussion, have moved the AGM back to the 6:30 p.m. dinner format, after discovering that holding the meeting at noon for the past two years did not increase the attendance as had been hoped.

With 22 paid 2017 memberships on the books to date, the chamber executive is hoping to have more come in during January, as only those holding a membership are eligible to vote. President Jonny Nielsen noted that six of the 21 members take advantage of the Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan, and said that last year, 15 of the 43 members purchased the insurance. The comprehensive group insurance plan, available to chamber of commerce member businesses of all sizes across the country, is also a source of funding for the chambers, with Elk Point chamber earning over \$4,100 in commission between February 2015 and March 2016.

High speed internet is still on the chamber's agenda, with Town of Elk Point CAO Ken Gwozdz reporting on the broadband meeting in St. Paul, which he, Deputy Mayor Lorne Young and Coun. Bernice Capjack attended. They heard from a consultant who talked strategies and looked for support, Gwozdz said, "but there was nothing there that would change the town's mind" about further exploring the proposal from Axia Fibre Town. It was also noted that the federal government has plans to ensure Canadians across the nation can access Internet service.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Albertans brace for carbon tax increases

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

Although the only clear sign immediately following the Jan. 1 implementation of the Alberta carbon tax was a significant increase at the pumps, many Albertans are bracing for what may or may not be significant increases in other areas of daily living.

The much talked about tax had only been in effect for five days when on Jan. 5, many Albertans received their first Alberta Climate Leadership Adjustment Rebate (ACLAR). The payment is meant to help lower income families offset the increased costs that may be seen on everything from buying chips at a gas station, to groceries and monthly utility bills.

St. Paul-Lac La Biche-Two Hills Wildrose MLA Dave Hanson said his office has been getting lots of phone calls from constituents on the issue, now that the tax is in effect.

"I'm hearing a lot of anger and frustration on it," he says, noting, "It's kind of expected." Hanson says he tried to talk to people before Jan. 1, but often it's once laws come into effect that people truly take notice.

Last week, Kevin Bernhardt, president of the St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce, said he felt it was too early to know what the effects of the carbon tax would be, locally.

"It really is too early to tell how it's going to effect business in St. Paul," he says, adding, clearly, people are hopeful that the effect won't be "too much."

"I think everybody is in a let's wait and see how it effects things," he adds. Bernhardt says that once businesses get their first shipment of the month, then they might know what the implications will be on their bottom line.

"As consumers, we're concerned about our family's budget," he says, adding, as business owners, they

Fish harvest

(Continued from Front Page)

Less fishing on the lake would give the fish time to recover, if the populations have been drastically reduced, he noted.

"It is encouraging that fish are still present; however, to be precautionary, I would allow the spring spawning, and then allow people to enjoy the fishing and harvesting of the fish."

Makoweci said he personally saw nearly 50 vehicles on the lake not too long ago, and said several anglers are catching and keeping fish off the lake this winter.

Watkins says the regulation change was made as a "precaution approach." The zero harvest limit will be in place "until we can determine the state of the fishery." Alberta Environment and Parks will revisit the lake in the summer, and determine what the state of the lake is, and if things appear fine, the regulations will be readjusted.

"Ideally what we'd like to do is go back to the lake this coming open water season to assess the population," says Watkins.

When asked about the summer kill that the lake experience, Watkins says it's an "equilibrium phenomenon" that occurs when fish end up in water where there isn't enough oxygen for them to survive.

This can happen in shallow lakes, or basins, where the water temperature is more prone to rising and falling.

"There's more dissolved oxygen in water with lower temperatures, compared to water with a higher temperature," he explains. Summer kills can happen in areas where fish can't escape to deeper, more oxygenated water.

When asked about the effects of algae on the lake, Watkins explains that because algae is a plant, it too requires oxygen when it decomposes, so that decomposing plant matter also reduced oxygen in a lake.

Mostly, people catch yellow perch at Stoney Lake, but there are also northern pike and burbot present in the lake. The regulations prior to the change in September were: one pike over 63 cm, and a perch limit of 10.

are concerned about their bottom line, and balancing between keeping products affordable, while also keeping expenses in line.

Bernhardt says he would be willing to say he supports the carbon tax if it could be guaranteed that the funds generated are going directly to environmental uses, improvements, and diversifying the economy.

"Then, I am in favour of it."

While most people in the area are mindful of the changes coming, some don't feel it will be a huge burden. Local resident Leslie deMoissac says that although she's not a "huge fan" of any new tax, she also isn't going to lose sleep over it.

"I'm not saying I'm a huge fan of any tax increase, and I know it might affect many families negatively, but I'm not too worried about it. I find people pay all sorts of 'sin tax' without thinking twice - on cigarettes, alcohol, etc., and we drop \$5 a day at Tim Horton's on coffee. I'm not happy about the carbon tax but I'm not going to lose sleep over it either."

To prepare for the introduction of the carbon levy, St. Paul's largest school board, St. Paul Education Regional Division (SPERD), completed some carbon tax calculations based on historical consumption data in May of 2016, says board chair Heather Starosielski.

"At that time, we identified that the 2016/17 impact on the natural gas consumption could potentially be \$26,000, transportation (division owned buses) \$5,700, and \$16,302 for bus contractors. These numbers reflect the levy being introduced Jan. 1, therefore half of the current school year. We are not certain yet how the levy could potentially affect electricity prices," she says.

SPERD is hopeful the Alberta Government will consider extending an exemption to school boards, or a full rebate on the carbon tax paid.

"School boards already struggle financially, and there is no doubt that some of these additional costs would have to be recouped in some way," says Starosielski. She pointed out that Minister of Education David Eggen stated last year at the Alberta School Board's annual meeting, that school boards would not be left in a deficit position, but further clarification on this statement hasn't been received yet.

When it comes to gas prices, Hanson says people are confused about why the price jumped so much, when the number being touted by the provincial government was that it would increase regular fuel by four cents a litre.

Rather than seeing a simple four-cent increase, the

price at the pump jumped closer to 10 cents, sometimes more, in early January.

"People are confused. It's taken quite a jump," says Hanson. He explains that people need to also consider that even the trucks hauling the fuel are paying the new carbon tax, which increases the gas company's overhead costs, among other issues.

"It's all compounded."

Another group of Albertans Hanson has heard from is farmers. Although the cost of marked fuel isn't supposed to be affected by the carbon tax, other things are, such as propane being used to dry wet crops that were taken off the field in less-than-ideal conditions this fall.

"So, they're in the same boat as the rest of us when it comes to that."

Another misconception is that First Nations people don't pay the carbon tax. Although fuel sold on reserve and purchased by people living on the reserve isn't affected, they too will feel the potential impact, like everyone else, says Hanson.

He adds that people are welcome to continue calling his office with questions and comments, and he will work to bring those messages to the provincial government.

The MLA says the Wildrose continues to hold its position against the carbon tax, but not because the party doesn't believe change is needed.

"No one is denying that there's climate change effects," he says, adding, "We do not see (the tax) reducing greenhouse gas emissions at all." Instead, Hanson feels the tax is penalizing people for simply living their lives.

Hanson says he's also heard feedback on how Albertans are unhappy with the current multi-million dollar advertising campaign funded by the provincial government. He says people are going to watch a movie at the theatre, and before the film starts, an ad selling the idea of the carbon tax plays.

Not all opposed

But, not everyone in the area is upset with the tax.

"I'm not eligible for the rebate, and we use a lot of gas a month, but I am in favour of the tax," says Erin Cherniwchan. "It is meant to be unpleasant so that it encourages less consumption and I know I will idle less and speed less. And we will wear sweaters before cranking up the heat."

She adds that she is concerned about the environment and hopes the tax will encourage the development of greener energies.

(Continued on Page 6)

Chamber

(Continued from Front Page)

The airport runway lights were another carryover from 2016 business, and Gwozdz said the latest report has now been revised and will be taken to the Airport Commission meeting on Jan. 19. The chances that the project would meet grant criteria for provincial funding are "low, but the Province wants us to apply," he said, asking the chamber for a letter of support, which will be forthcoming. It was noted that Elk Point's airport is strategically located weather-wise and has rarely been closed because of fog or other weather conditions, unlike some of the others in the area. It also has a long and recently resurfaced runway that will accommodate a variety of aircraft.

Gwozdz also told the chamber that the County of St. Paul wants to look at economic development on a regional basis, and has invited municipalities and chambers to a fact-finding meeting in late January or early February.

Buying local

A letter was sent to the Town by President Nielsen outlining concerns by local contractors that they had not been contacted for quotes for the recent salt shed building project at the transfer station, with the town's response including a copy of the 'buy local' policy that is in place. "It is very much appreciated and shows that it's a detailed process," he noted, adding that it still didn't answer the contractors' concerns. Gwozdz told the chamber that while the transfer station land is owned by the town, the town, county and two other municipalities had gone together on Alberta Community Partnership grants to fund the bulk water fill station, radios for emergency workers and the salt shed. "The town looked after the bulk water station and the county looked after the salt shed. The county put up the town's share of the funding for it and the town had nothing to do with it. The county owns the buildings that are on the town land out there." He added that the town and county are hoping to have the transfer station

open a third day per week, starting in April. Gwozdz suggested that the chamber invite the county's new public works superintendent to a future meeting to outline the county's purchasing policy.

Minor hockey provincials

With Elk Point Minor Hockey scheduled to host one of the 2017 hockey provincials tournaments in late March, Nielsen said the business community needs to get involved. "These people need food and accommodation and the chamber needs to support the event."

Speed sign

The Community Advisory Policing Committee's recommendation to set up a portable speed indicator sign got a rave review from a chamber member who said this "great idea" had the potential to slow down some of the motorists who speed through the community on Highway 41. The town borrowed the sign from the County of St. Paul, Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich said. council is also hoping to obtain a pedestrian crossing for the safety of workers accessing the industrial park on foot.

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Busy month for the Elk Point 4-H Beef Club

LEXI WIRSTA
Club Reporter

The past month has been quite busy for us 4-H members. Since weigh day we've had three events - Regional Volleyball, our Christmas party and an Oil Kings game.

On December 4th we had 4-H volleyball in Vermilion. Our team included two of our senior members, Mathew McAnally and Nicole Bristow. Kailey Wirsta, Macey Marcoux, Dallas Bristow and Lexi Wirsta made up the intermediates. Jayci Marcoux and Chloe Germain were our junior members. We all had a lot of fun and we are so excited for next year!!

On December 18th we had our Christmas Party! We decided to go bowling in St. Paul at the bowling ally. After we finished a friendly competition we went to the Germain's house and had pizza for supper. We had our regular meeting then we all gathered in a circle for the gift exchange. Everyone had a lot of laughs and had so much fun. In the end we were all very pleased with the gifts we ended up with.

On January 4th we went to the Oil Kings game. We rode the Xtreme Oilfield bus from Elk Point and St. Paul. Before the game, the bus stopped at McDonalds for supper because Rogers Place is really expensive. When we got there, everyone was so amazed at how big Rogers Place was! During one of the intermissions, the entire 4-H member's got to go down stairs and high five all the Oil Kings and cheer them on. It was really cool. A few of 4-H members got on the big screen above the ice surface!!

We've had an exciting month! In addition to our fun we helped out the Elk Point Community Lions with wrapping presents and making Christmas hampers on December 16th.

Our next activity will include a public speaking workshop and record book workshop at Bristow's, followed by our annual public speaking competition in February.



4-H Beef Club enjoyed the Oil Kings game (above), volleyball in Vermilion (right) and their Christmas party at Germain's (below).



Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

Take Part in Alberta's Constituency Boundaries Review

Alberta's population has increased by more than 20% in the last eight years. As a result, we need to review our provincial constituency boundaries prior to the next provincial election. The Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission invites your input.

1 Attend the public hearing in St. Paul.

January 23

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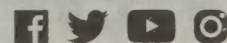
2 Provide an online submission by February 8, 2017.

Submit online, by e-mail or mail. Submissions and the identities of the authors will be made public.

www.ABebc.ca

Register online by January 17, 2017, if you'd like to make an oral presentation at this hearing.

3 Follow the Commission's progress on social media.



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EDITORIAL

Winning silver not a disgrace

In the wake of last Thursday's World Junior Hockey shootout that gave the US a win over Canada, there was much talk about the 'heartbreaking' outcome, and news photos showing players, their families and fans with tears in their eyes.

Is winning silver still not a win?

Team Canada won all but one game in the round robin and semifinals, with that 3-1 loss to the USA. Compared to that, being tied 4-4 after not just 60 but 80 minutes of playing time sounds extremely close. Should there have been yet another period of sudden-death overtime? Maybe. That sounds like a much more equitable way to end a game than a shootout, but by then, all of those young players would be totally worn out, not just the goalies.

It's not like Team Canada is a stranger to silver medals, last week's being the ninth set since the competition started in 1977. True, they have won 16 sets of gold medals, the last in 2015, along with five sets of bronze, but except for 2015, they had not brought home any medals at all since 2012. When you look at it that way, silver doesn't seem so bad after all.

During the four decades while Canada racked up 30 medals, the US had a total of 10, this being only their fourth gold, with one silver in the past and five bronze, including one in 2016. So perhaps it was their turn.

Junior hockey is only one age bracket up from minor hockey, and in minor hockey, coaches emphasize the importance of playing to one's best ability, rather than insisting that their team win every game. Both those teams played their hearts out, and one of them had to win. It just wasn't our turn this year.

RECREATION CORNER

Family ski trip coming up

recreation@elkpoint.ca
Review Contributor

The Elk Point Rec Department is pleased to announce that we've partnered with the County Of St Paul, Elk Point office FCSS and Xtreme Oilfield to offer a Family Ski Trip to Kinosoo Ridge!!!

Thanks to our partners, the bus will be free! We are also negotiating a price for the hill, but it looks as though we will be able you offer the trip, bus ride, ski or snowboard rental and lift passes for \$30 or less a person!! We are working to bring that down even more, so stay tuned we will be announcing how to book in next week's edition of the Rec Corner.

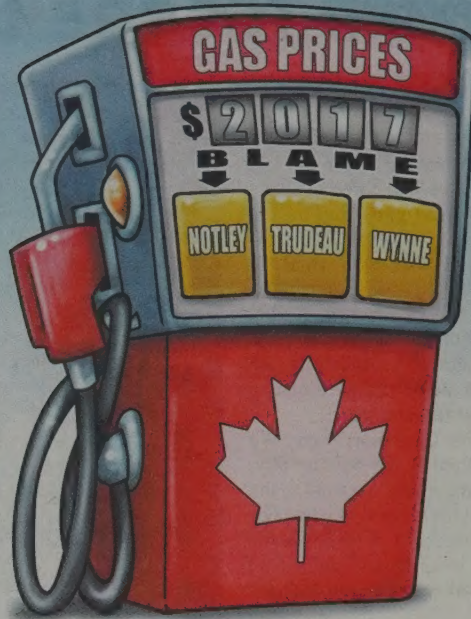
The trip is booked for a no-school day, January 31. Kids must be accompanied by an adult (over 18), with a maximum of five (5) kids per supervisor. There will be no supervision or day care provided.

We're also really excited to hear the Elks Alumni Game and Mike Boratynec jersey retirement is in the works for Jan 28th. More details on that to come next week as well.

If there's any events you would like to see from the Rec Department in 2017, please email me, recreation@elkpoint.ca.

Reminder: The next Canada Day meeting is Jan, 17 at 6 p. m. at Council Chambers. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome and there are fundraising opportunities available for non-profits.

WHEN IN DOUBT...



WAY BACK WHEN...

New Year's baby, new seniors' centre, new ambulance

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE ELK POINT REVIEW AND LAKELAND REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9 IN...

1987

Christine Megan, daughter of Doris and Ralph Benson, arrived at 5:34 a.m. January 1 to become Elk Point's New Year's baby. While municipal and political leaders were not looking for further decline in the area's economy, they weren't looking for much new growth, either, and predicted it could be a year of holding on to what we already had.

1992

Pioneer Circle seniors spent New Year's Eve packing and loading their equipment and furniture for the move to the new seniors' recreation centre, with no interruption to the regular round of bingos. Elk Point Minor Hockey was proud to provide \$15,000 to the Elk Point Agricultural Society for the dressing room expansion project, with the funds raised through minor hockey bingo.

1997

Activities at five separate venues were capped off with an excellent fireworks display at the third annual First Night Festival. Elk Point United Church congregation was in shock following the sudden passing of Rev. Norman Hartley on January 2.

2002

Elk Point Chamber's first meeting of the new year focused on tourism promotion, with a visit from Kevin Kisilevich of Kalyna Country. Elk Point and District Ambulance proudly unveiled their brand new, fully equipped unit which owner Fred Lambright said he felt would help the company to provide improved care throughout the area.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

2007



FROG LAKE SENIOR Margaret Gladue came to Elk Point to pick up the grand prize in the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce Christmas Extravaganza draw, and Chamber treasurer Lesia Porcina presented the wide-screen plasma television and home theatre package.

The purchase price of homes in Elk Point saw a significant upswing and Shirley Harms of Lakeland Real Estate Services said home prices "have increased upwards of 50 per cent," over the previous three years.

2012

Elk Point Oilmen's Association held their Big Bucks Contest on New Year's Eve, with Joe Tremblay taking the Mule Deer honours, Dana Lychak the Youth Whitetail, Nicole Landstrom the Ladies's Whitetail and Wayne Tymofichuk showing the year's winning Whitetail. Sam Henderson's hat trick goal with three minutes left in the third period broke a tie with Cold Lake to give the Atom B Avalanche their first win of the season, as part of their home tournament.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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Canada

Minor hockey back in action after break

Just like watching little toy tin soldiers; talk about cute; they go marching around the ice with little tiny steps and fall down get up and head the other way. That's our **Micro Novice** team.....and there was absolutely no time to waste for 'Wyatt Earp' Fontaine who scored a natural hat trick; right off the opening face off he picked up the puck three times in the first minute and scored. In Micro Novice they have a three goal limit so after his first shift he became the set up man for the rest of the game, assisting on two other goals, plus playing a few shifts between the posts where he made some really nice saves. Remington 'Steel' Reynolds scored a hat trick as well as adding three assists and ringing a couple off the goals posts. Long legged Jaxon 'Smitty' Smith with two goals plus some terrific back checking. Theo 'Long Horn' Loughran and Denys 'the Menace' Kuba also scoring in this one. Little Thomas Melnyk with two assists, Jackson Rawlake coming up big when it was his turn in net with some huge saves, Davey 'Crockett' Cardinal was putting pressure on the fore checking and Jaxon Marcoux doing some really good back checking.



doug
BASSETT
Review Sports

Right after the micro novice game, rookie goalie Raif 'Rug Rat' Evans Anderson played phenomenal in net, sliding from side to side, bouncing up and down and pouncing on the puck like a cat on a rat! The **Novice 1 A** winning over Mallaig by a fairly huge margin on Saturday morning at home. Celebrating her birthday that morning on Ukrainian Christmas, 'Hurricane Kayl' Warawa was ready to put some icing on her cake, scoring a hat trick and adding an assist. Off his leash 'Mad Dog' Madden Flamand was really on a tear, he scored a hat trick plus assisting on five others. The rookie called up from the farm team, 'Wyatt Earp' Fontaine with two goals and an assist. Sebastien Brousseau with two goals and some awesome back checking. Boe Johnson with a goal and an assist. 'Notorious Nolan' Ballas with one goal, 'Without a Trace' Morgan with three helpers and some goal posts. Even though 'Stellar Ella' Ballas wasn't on the game sheet for a goal or an assist it certainly was not for the lack of effort, she was giving 100

per cent effort holding the blue line the whole game, playing on defense.

The next morning, Sunday, the other Novice team, the 1 B team traveled up to Lac La Biche coming home with a 'W'. Hat tricks and one assist each for Evett 'Snoopy' Smereka and Kaysen DeMoissac, two goals for Braylee 'BJ' Lesyk. Charlotte Henderson, Kale Ockerman and Miles Koren all with one goal each. Brendan Kadutski and Riley 'Coyote' Bourne are not on the score sheet but both contributed on the back end checking the opposition. Always the same old story, no glory for the defensemen!

Like it or not, these are exactly the kind of teams you want to play before the provincial round robins start in a few weeks. Nice clean tough teams to see how you can compete when the going gets tough and to see where you can make some improvements. Playing easier teams is fun, but going to the provincial final is fun too! But you must be prepared to meet some tough teams.

The **Atom Avalanche** faced a Vermilion tier 1 B team on Saturday at home. Our boys played well, but many times during the early part of the game they would lose possession of the puck and were bailed out by goalie 'Kid Kade' Fontaine who faced 31 shots in the end. The game was tied two-all after the first period on goals by rushing defenseman Sam 'Spiderman' Rogal, assisted by Ryan 'Ram Rod' Cameron and a real nice short handed one all alone by Vaughn 'the Vulture' Ockerman. Half way through the second period 'King Kong Konnor' Poiras would score on the power play assisted by Cash 'CC' Capjack to tie the game again, this time at three-all, then with only 17 seconds left in the second period 'CC' finding the back of the mesh after another nice feed by the 'Ram Rod'; the Avalanche heading into the dressing room leading by 4 to 3 after 40 minutes. The third period the Tigers came out hungry and scored one to tie the game part way through the third period and then pressuring, they scored the winner with only three minutes left before the buzzer. Coach James Capjack calling a time out with 40 seconds left and pulling the goalie for the extra attacker, the Avalanche with some quality chances but failed to score; the final 5 to 4 for the Tigers.

On the road all weekend the **Midget Avalanche** played some teams they haven't played before this past weekend too, winning both games. Friday night 7 to 4 over the Bonnyville Pontiacs and Saturday blowing away the Blazers 9 to 3 in the Border City. Friday night Bowen 'Bam Bam' Krider and Kyle 'Ketchup' Kjenner with two each, 'Warrior Warren' Ference, Angus 'Micky' McFarlane and Chase 'Rink Rat' Dorey with one each. Nick 'Sparky' Anderson, Brody 'the Big O' Odgaard, Christian 'Wheels' Castle Wasson and Hayden 'Hot Wheels' Ludlage all with the assists. Another good team effort in Lloydminster on Saturday, everyone on the team was getting in on the action, 'the Big O' tipping his cap with a hat trick, 'Hot Wheels' wheeling his rig in for a goal and two assists, 'Sparky' lighting the lamp with one and a couple of helpers, 'Bam Bam' and his side kick the Heinsburg Kid 'Ketchup' hammering on the door, bang-bang, into the mesh, 'Captain Obvious' Austin Stafford, obviously a leader even if he didn't score.....one for him, and Chad 'Pick Pocket' Poiras picking the corner with a perfect one timer into the twine! 'Rink Rat' and 'Wheels' with some helpers too.

The **Bantam Avalanche** were on the road this weekend as well, but didn't fare as well; losing two very close games. Who knows why...not really that terrible score wise, but maybe the guys were still in holiday mode! On Friday night in Provost the bantams losing 4 to 1 even though they outshot their opponent 29 to 24. Jaden 'Jet Stream' Van Maarion with the only goal assisted by 'Lightning Liam' Ludlage. On Saturday this one even closer: 2 to 1 the score for the Bisons, shots on goal 24 to 23, the penalties are very even too, our guys with an extra two minutes is all. Charlie 'Angel' Rogal with the only goal, assisted by 'Lightning Liam' Ludlage and 'King Cole' Bendixen. Sometimes this will happen around the Christmas time when everyone gets just a little bit lazy. But guess what, you guys, the holiday is over, it's back to school this week and it's back to work at practice!!

And now for the K. A. Campbell quote of the week. "Whoever said 'It's not whether you win or lose that counts'. probably lost."

Elks start 2017 with win

Friday night's contest between the Elk Point Elks and the Viking Gas Kings may go down in the books as the highest scoring game of the year, when the home team snuffed out the Gas Kings' pilot light 21 to 1.

With the last meeting between these teams coming to an 8-6 decision in Viking's favor, fans were happy to see the Elks mark one up on the scoreboard only a minute and a half into the first period, and rack up another six goals in the next 15 minutes, defying every attempt by the shorthanded Kings to slow the barrage of shots. Two goals by Mark Brodwin and one each by Derrick Boulianne, Scott Ward, Myles Quinney, Myles Whitford and Jarvis Nicodemus, with assists coming from Dyson Karbaszewski, Chevy Botting, Whitford, Ben Blacklock, Nicodemus, Ward and Brodwin.

Karbaszewski took only 40 seconds to increase the lead going into the second period, with the score staying at 8-0 for almost five minutes before Viking scored on a power play, with Lee Letestu in the penalty box. Any hope that goal might have given

the visitors was quickly dashed when Chevy Botting scored a hat trick in the space of four minutes, one second, with two more by Whitford, giving him a hat trick, and one each by Ward and Matthew Boulianne added by the end of the period. Assists came from Brodwin, Quinney, Nicodemus, Devin Moneta and Letestu.

Both Whitford and Botting would add a fourth goal to their count for the evening in the third period, with Brodwin completing his hat trick and Letestu, Matthew Boulianne and Moneta adding one apiece for a total of 21 Elk Point goals. Assists in the third period were contributed

by Nicodemus, Moneta, Blacklock, Quinney and Jason Kalynchuk.

The win sees the Elks sitting in fifth place in the league, with 18 points, while the Dewberry Mustangs second with 22 points, the Lashburn Flyers third with 20 points and Marwayne Comets fourth with 19 points, 11 points behind the still undefeated Wainwright Rustlers.

The Gas Kings are in a tie for eighth place overall with St. Walburg Eagles, who defeated the Kings 12-1 on Saturday.

This week, the Elks will head across the border to take on the Lashburn Flyers with an 8:00 p.m. game on Saturday night.

2nd Chance correction

Our sincere apologies to Shirley's Catering, which was said to be donating preparation labour for the supper at the 2nd Chance Trail Ride. This is not the case; the caterer is Shirley Hyslop of Spruce Grove, who also served up last year's supper.

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or mbayduza@xplornet.ca

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RURAL RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

ParticipACTION 150 Play List revealed for Canada's 150th

TORONTO - Now that Canadians have had their say, the **ParticipACTION 150 Play List** - the ultimate list of 150 physical activities that define us as Canadian - is here. Along with hockey, hiking and curling being some popular choices, so were dog walking, building a snowman and 5-pin bowling. Throughout 2017, Canadians are being challenged to try as many of the activities on the list as possible in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. This nationwide challenge will see events taking place from coast to coast to coast to give Canadians the chance to get moving and participate.

Carbon tax

(Continued from Page 2)

"This is a long-term plan, with some immediate pain, but if it does result in a global benefit for my grandchildren, I'm all for it," says Cherniwhchan.

According to the Government of Alberta website, "Alberta's carbon levy provides a financial incentive for families, businesses and communities to lower their emissions. Economists agree that a price on carbon is the most cost-effective way to reduce emissions. It drives innovation and changes behavior by encouraging individuals and businesses to become more energy efficient and shift away from higher emission fuels."

Rebate

When speaking about the ACLAR, Thursday, Deputy Premier Sarah Hoffman said, "The carbon price is a made-in-Alberta solution that protects pocketbooks with rebates for 66 per cent of Albertans to help our most vulnerable and ensures that we get pipelines built. We are committed to providing Albertans with the support they need to use energy more efficiently and save money."

According to the government, 60 per cent of households are expected to

The ParticipACTION 150 Play List kick-off event took place last week at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto. The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, Elio Antunes, President & CEO of ParticipACTION, Sara Hennessey, ParticipACTION 150 Play List ambassador, Olympians and special guests took part in the ceremonial reveal of the 150 Play List. Attendees, along with the public, had a chance to check off a few activities on the list - such as curling, stick pull and wheelchair racing (athletics) - while traveling through a 150-shaped activity course.

receive a full rebate to help offset costs of the carbon levy.

A couple earning up to \$95,000 per year will receive \$300 per year; while a single adult earning up to \$47,500 will receive \$200 per year. Rebates will increase in 2018, along with the carbon levy, to \$300 for singles, \$450 for couples, and \$45 per child.

Small Business Tax Break

Another topic that's been discussed in the media is the introduction of a one per cent tax cut for small businesses.

"To help businesses adjust to the carbon levy, Alberta's small business corporate income tax rate is being reduced by one third, from three per cent to two per cent, effective Jan 1, 2017. The reduction is projected to save small business owners \$185 million in 2017-18," according to the Government of Alberta website.

Hanson says he supports this move, but adds that the Wildrose tried to introduce an amendment to Bill 2, back in June of 2015, to do the same thing. At that time, the NDP government voted against the change, says Hanson.

"I think it's the only way to stimulate our economy," says Hanson, adding, the province needs to allow businesses to compete, and that requires a more competitive tax regime.

"The ParticipACTION 150 Play List is a physical-activity movement, inspiring and motivating Canadians everywhere to move more and sit less," said Antunes. "Busy schedules, sedentary jobs and hours spent indoors have left little room for physical activity in everyday life. Grab your family, friends or colleagues and try as many activities on this list as possible. And, remember, physical activity isn't just great for our health—it's part of who we are as Canadians."

From October to December 2016, Canadians voted almost half a million times on the physical activities they wanted to make the list. The final list was based on Canadians' votes, as well as expert input from the ParticipACTION 150 Play List Advisory Committee, a group of representatives from a variety of diverse stakeholder groups across Canada, to ensure the list reflects the diversity of Canada.

"The 150th anniversary of Confederation is an opportunity to celebrate all that makes us Canadian. The activities that have been chosen by Canadians for the Play List are an essential part of our collective identity," said the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

"The ParticipACTION 150 Play List celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation in the best way I know how—through physical activity. I'm proud to see the extraordinary work that ParticipACTION has done to be inclusive of persons of all abilities by providing adaptive options for each activity on the Play List. Being active is an essential part of being Canadian and ParticipACTION has ensured that it's accessible to all of us, in every part of the country, regardless of who we are or where we live," said Minister Qualtrough.

Canadians are invited to [sign up online](http://www.participaction.com/150), get active and check off as many

of the 150 activities as they can for chances to win weekly, monthly and grand-prize draws for \$100 gift cards, Canadian vacation adventures or even a brand new Chevrolet. Being physically active is its own reward, but a little motivation doesn't hurt!

The ParticipACTION 150 Play List Crew has 100 tour stops planned across Canada, with activity stations hosted by the Government of Canada, Manulife, Chevrolet and Shaw, making it easy for Canadians to try new activities and check a few of them off their list. Communities, local schools, clubs and sports organizations will also be holding events throughout the year to give even more opportunities for Canadians to have some fun and get active. Canadians can visit www.participaction.com/150 to search an interactive map to find tour stops and local community events and programs nearest them.

About the ParticipACTION 150 Play List

To celebrate Canada's 150th birthday, ParticipACTION created the ParticipACTION 150 Play List - the ultimate list of all the physical activities that make us Canadian. Throughout 2017 every Canadian, in all communities, schools and workplaces from coast to coast to coast, will be challenged to complete as many physical activities on the list as possible, track their efforts online and earn rewards along the way. The ParticipACTION 150 Play List is a collaborative effort supported by the Government of Canada, premier corporate partners Manulife, Chevrolet and Shaw, the Government of B.C., the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador and national media partner Corus.

To register or find out more, including details on more than 100 local ParticipACTION Play List events throughout 2017, please visit www.participaction.com/150.

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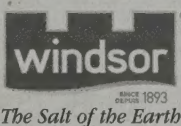
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for more information.**OBITUARY****CAPJACK, Ann**On December 29, 2016, Mrs. Ann Capjack of Elk Point passed away at the age of 91 years. She is survived by her 3 daughters, Lavina (Russell) Yaceyko of Derwent, Ellen (Dale) Johnston of Edmonton & Cheryl (Harvey) Derewynka of Elk Point; 7 grandchildren, Shelley Yaceyko, Carmen (Shaun) Cadrain, Darren Yaceyko, Vanessa Johnston, Dustin Johnston, Kristoffer (Alysha) Derewynka & Megan (Ken) Derewynka; 5 great-grandchildren, Shania (Chad) Mokelky, Shelby Chanasyk, Gavin Cadrain, Ava Cadrain & Karsen Cadrain; 3 brothers & 1 sister, Bill (Jean) Lesyk, Walter (Marie) Lesyk both of Elk Point, Mike (Margaret) Lesyk of Wetaskiwin & Edna (Ron) Fradshan of Okotoks; numerous nieces & nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, John in 2003; parents, Paul & Mary Lesyk; 2 brothers, Pete & Donald; 1 sister, Stella (Carl) Sloan. A Funeral Service was held on Thursday, January 5 at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Gardens Funeral Chapel, St. Paul. Reverend Father Mark Sych officiated, with interment in Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, Elk Point. If desired, donations may be made to a charity of one's choice c/o 5626 - 51 Street, St. Paul, AB. T0A 3A1. To send condolences online, please visit www.gracegardensfuneralchapel.com.**GRACE GARDENS
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Hard-skating, hard-hitting senior hockey is about as active as a person can get, and the Elk Point Elks and Viking Gas Kings racked up a tremendous amount of ice time on Friday night at the A. G. Ross Arena.

What activities are YOU checking off the Canada 150 ParticipACTION Play List? Feel free to send us a picture of you and your family as you take part in the many activities available in and around Elk Point. Send to vbrooker@stpaul.greatwest.ca

Looking back at 2016 headline news...

Here are more of the stories that made the headlines in 2016...

July

Canada Day got off to a rainy start but although it moved the Friends of the Library's pancake breakfast indoors, it didn't rain on our parade and even cleared off before evening headliner Olivia Rose took the stage with performances before and after the Canada Day Idol competition, which was won by another talented young lady, Cassidy Zahar. Elk Point 4-H Multi Club's Achievement Day was part of the Canada Day lineup, with Morgan Evans showing the Grand Champion Market Lamb and Eros Cueva the Reserve Champion.

A very muddy infield gave poor footing for horses, but softer than usual landings for unsuccessful rough stock riders at Stoney Lake Stampede, where spectators scrambled for cover during the only shower to mar the Sunday performance. The first event of six days of geocaching kicked off at Fort George and Buckingham House with around 50 participants starting off Sails, Rails and Tails with their search of the historic site.

History came to life for one of Peter Fidler's descendants and his family, who were among the visitors who took in the annual Bears and Berries Festival at Fort George and Buckingham House. The Town of Elk Point was cracking down on unsightly property, with the administration sending the owners of unkempt properties a request that the situation be dealt with.

Zone 7 teams from Provost, St. Paul and Bonnyville swept up the medals when Elk Point Pumas and Elk Point Minor Ball hosted the U14 Girls Provincial Softball Provincials. Blandine Adkins' beautifully tended yard was one of the stops on this year's Community Garden Society of St. Paul Garden Tour.

August



LONG-TIME MINOR BALL COACH and volunteer Laverne Wilson was honoured and the host Elk Point Bantam Sox won provincial gold medals in a 13-12 nail-biter final at the newly named Wilson Field diamond.

The Town tweaked their new campground policy with revised rates that reflect the existence of both power and non-power sites at both the Recreation Park and River Park.

Corbin Ockerman won two provincial gold medals in as many weekends after he was drafted by Provost to help that team out in the Tier 2 Provincials in Edmonton, while Elk Point players 'Mic Jager' Fontaine, 'Kid Kade' Fontaine, Vaughn 'the Vulture' Ockerman and Sam 'Spiderman' Rogal teamed up with Bonnyville Braves to win the Mosquito A Provincials. North East Alberta Track and Field athlete Parker Allen brought home a silver in discus and a bronze in hammer throw from the Tri-Prov Western Canadian Championships.

A short but spirited version of television's The Amazing Race thundered through Elk Point, 12 teams completing five challenges in short order and Bradley and Dustin Dubrule and Spencer and Denver Graling becoming the first-ever champions of the event sponsored by County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS. Lillian Balazs of Cold Lake won her sixth Elk Point Horticulture and Craft Show grand aggregate, along with section prizes in canning and knitting, crochet and weaving.

Changing the format to a two-man scramble increased attendance by almost 50 per cent at the Elk Point Oilmen's Golf Tournament, where

Troy Lorensen and Lyndsey Hall were declared the Championship Flight winners. Movie nights were once again part of a very busy summer for the County of St. Paul and FCSS, with a small but appreciative crowd enjoying 'The Incredibles' at Ferguson Flats, which had hosted a Science Drop-in afternoon earlier in the summer.

FCSS was once again in the headlines a week later, with director Janice Fodchuk visiting Elk Point town council to give them a comprehensive rundown on the first year of the merged departments, and received some very positive feedback in return. 'Survival 101' was the theme of the third annual Bushcraft event at Fort George and Buckingham House, with demonstrations of fur trade era skills from birch bark canoe building to starting fires using cattail fluff as tinder.

September

"Watch out for the kids!" was the message Elk Point RCMP Sgt. Barry LaRocque emphasized, as he sat in the school zone between F. G. Miller High School and Elk Point Elementary on the first day of school, reminding drivers that excited youngsters might be looking around and not paying attention to traffic. Victim Services is "there for victims in their darkest moments," Elk Point VSU manager Ashley McQueen said in an interview, adding that after charges have been laid, the focus is often on the accused, "and the victims don't always know what's going on."

The FCSS-hosted Information Night offered one-stop shopping for information on everything from pond hockey to antique cars, Further Education programs to the progress on town projects to over 240 area residents, with 37 groups, organizations and agencies taking part. MLA David Hanson visited the first meeting of the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce after the summer break, and updated the members on the status of the Highway 41 bridge repairs, which have limited access by wide loads, such as farm machinery, to weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

An exciting new project opened its doors on the lower floor of the Play2Learn Daycare, as Elk Point Early Childhood Development Committee opened their Discovery Centre. Town council welcomed new Deputy Fire Chief Jon Kadutski, who was still learning his new responsibilities after the retirement of Fire Chief Ken Palamarek.

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce hosted its first-ever Fun Scramble golf tournament, with five-under-par teammates Matt Lett, Leo DeMoissac, Tim and Hailey Mahdiuk placing first out of seven teams in the event, which had been rescheduled from mid-June. Northern Lights Library System hosted a one-day conference with the theme, "Libraries Reborn 2016" which was packed with information at 16 sessions on topics ranging from library board survival to creating an original summer reading program.

October

Elk Point town council learned that Quik Pick Waste Disposal's pilot recycling project for cardboard, plastic and newspaper would be extended until Jan. 31 and company representatives would visit council before that time to discuss continuing to supply recycling containers at a nominal fee.



CANCER SURVIVORS, principal Rob MacDonald, ECS teacher Debbie Wood and student Jake Fontaine led the way as Elk Point Elementary School joined other schools from across the country in the Terry Fox School Run.

Elk Point Volunteer Firefighters visited Elk Point Elementary School to show off their shiny fire trucks and teach the youngsters about fire safety, escape routes and smoke alarms during Fire Prevention Week. Elk Point Chamber of Commerce set Saturday, Nov. 26 as the date for the Christmas Extravaganza, after

a questionnaire circulated to members indicated it should be on the same day as F. G. Miller Craft Fair.

A new entrance sign was under construction at the south entrance to Elk Point along Highway 41, which when completed, would match the sign at the north entrance. Town council met with Quik Pick and accepted their proposal to continue providing recycling service, with the County of St. Paul to share the cost.

Elk Point's third doctor was one step closer to setting up a practice after he was approved for a three-month assessment process where he would work under another doctor before getting the go-ahead. Elk Point Canada Day Committee learned that plans are underway to honour Canadian Armed Forces veterans as part of the observance of the nation's 150th birthday next July 1.

With the 2016 work on the walking trail almost completed, town council approved the expenditure of \$2,450 for a topographical study and \$3,500 for a preliminary construction cost estimate for 1,170 feet of sidewalk with brick trim between 52nd and 54th Streets. Coun. Lorne Young was sworn in as Elk Point's Deputy Mayor for the term beginning Nov. 1, 2016 and ending at the 2017 organizational meeting.

November

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce was looking for a source of high speed internet for area businesses, and was pleased to hear that the town had scheduled a meeting with a company currently bringing that service to communities across the province. Halloween went off without a hitch, with wonderful decorations at many homes visited by as many as 280 trick-or-treaters.

Allan Preston, the new interim president of the Lac La Biche - St. Paul - Two Hills Progressive Conservative Constituency Association, started off a round of informal discussions leading up to the PC leadership vote, with delegate selection the first step in that process. Elk Point paid tribute to the Canadian Armed Forces past and present on Remembrance Day, and enjoyed warmer weather than usual as they placed wreaths at Elk Point's cenotaph.

Firefighter Sheridan Naths visited town council to emphasize the importance of training for the department so members will comply with standards set by the fire commissioner's office, even if the cost exceeds the department's budget. 'The Odd Couple', with Don Conrad and Randall Kryns in the starring roles, opened at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre for the annual Christmas Dinner Theatre run.

A day of nonstop shopping at two craft and home based business fairs, a bake sale and downtown stores, combined with wagon rides, cookie decorating, a hockey shootout, parade and fireworks kicked off Elk Point's Christmas season with the annual Christmas Extravaganza. Rural break-ins and frustration over the difficulty of convicting the perpetrators were the prime concerns for Greater Lakeland Rural Crime Watch members, with excellent attendance at their final meeting of 2016 in Elk Point.

December

Danny Cardinal, Dana Lychak, Steven Rolheiser and Jordan Driver showed the top entries in a field of 47 at the Elk Point Oilmen's Big Bucks Contest. A move by the County of St. Paul to pay 75 per cent, rather than 50 per cent, of the fire department's operating costs, based on the ratio of county and town calls, gave town council the go-ahead to approve the fire department budget.

A weekend of music saw the Elk Point Community Choir and guests from the St. Paul 'Resonate' Bell Choir entertain a delighted Friday night crowd at their annual Christmas Concert, while voices from five churches combined their talents Sunday evening at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in the Interfaith Cantata. Extravaganza was self-supporting, the Chamber of Commerce heard, but needs an earlier start on the planning process for next year.

It wasn't the Christmas gift that Elk Point ratepayers wanted, but increased costs prompted town council's decision to increase utility rates as of Jan. 1. Council debated various potential sites before deciding that a site just north of the RV dump station for their bulk water fill station was their first choice.

Proud parents, grandparents and siblings packed Elk Point Elementary School for two music-themed Christmas concerts, with other concert crowds enjoying events at Jack and Jill Playschool and Heinsburg Community School. Judges were awed by a number of excellent Christmas light displays as they chose the winners in the chamber's annual Lighting and Decorating Contest, with Dante and Ginalyn Ginez, Davor and Garona Matanovic and Patsy and Ed Zarowny having the top three displays.